



A tradition of service.

Charlene's ancestors have lived in the San Francisco Bay Area for more than ten thousand years. DNA studies have conclusively linked her Tribe to burial remains in the Bay Area that are 2,500 years old. Her Ohlone people have always been stewards of this land – working to protect it for innumerable generations. When Charlene took over as Chairwoman of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe, following her mother's 40-year tenure, she continued that legacy – but her work to protect the environment started long before.

When Charlene founded a recycling company 15 years ago, she did so to address a pressing environmental problem: illegal dumping in our waterways. Her recycling company has grown into a global enterprise with operations on four continents, including more than 126 stores in Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador – and large-scale fiber reprocessing operations. She is responsible for diverting more than 60 million pounds of textiles from our landfills every single year. Now she is partnering with Televisa and Club America to bring

the recycling movement to Mexico.

Charlene is committed to protecting California's environment, to conserving its open spaces, to cleaning its waterways, and to protecting its sacred sites – because that's precisely what she has already been doing for decades. Charlene founded the Green Education Foundation to support youth education about recycling and sustainability in our schools. She co-founded the Muwekma Ohlone Preservation Land Trust, to protect open space in her Bay Area homeland.

Now, as a successful businesswoman who has done well by doing good, she is working on major projects that will benefit the people of California. Under her leadership, the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe is partnering with a leading industrialist to bring a solar panel manufacturing plant to California that will create hundreds of jobs.

Charlene is also leading an investment group that is bringing one of the world's leading engineers – who has pioneered process innovations that transform plastic bottles into beautiful silk-like fabrics – to construct a



reprocessing plant in the Bay Area – where an enormous amount of bottled beverages are consumed.

Only now is the State of California considering a law to encourage textile recycling. Charlene was decades ahead of the curve. It's clear that Charlene is a visionary, values-driven leader who is changing the recycling landscape in North America. She has been an innovator, a problem solver, and a thought leader in the textile recycling space.

That values-driven leadership is why tribal

elders and the Tribal Council of the Muwekma Ohlone tapped Charlene to succeed her mother as Chairwoman five years ago. Under her tenure, she has reinvigorated the Tribe's decades long struggle to affirm its federal status. The Tribe was previously federally recognized, was never terminated by an Act of Congress, and 100% of its members descend from that previously recognized Tribe. But in 1978, the Bureau of Indian Affairs erred in excluding the Muwekma Ohlone from its first official list of federally recognized Tribes.

Charlene has been lobbying Congress frequently, often traveling to Washington to advocate for congressional legislation that would officially recognize the Tribe, and to ask the Administration to take corrective action. Despite her repeated overtures and willingness to inform Bay Area members of Congress about the Tribe's struggle, Rep. Zoe Lofgren has remained a stubborn obstacle. Despite supporting the Tribe for decades, late last year Lofgren suddenly began to insist that the Tribe surrender a vast swath of its sovereignty, prohibiting it from pursuing its economic development or nation-building aspirations.

Lofgren claimed that her opposition to Muwekma's recognition effort was rooted in her personal opposition to gaming. Apparently, Rep. Lofgren has no re-

gard for the two statewide voter referendums that have established that right in State law; or for long-established federal law, in the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. Because gaming doesn't strike Zoe Lofgren's fancy, the Tribe must sign away the rights and freedoms of future generations merely in order to be seen.

That Lofgren conflates the issue of the Muwekma Ohlone people's existence with Indian gaming is offensive to a vast majority of tribal members. That's a different conversation for a different day, and those rights established in law shouldn't be extorted from the Tribe because of a rouge Congresswoman's unilateral demands.

Charlene has made clear that the Tribe has no plans to conduct gaming, and that the Council would only consider it if approached by a host municipality that asked for it. In fact, one of Charlene's first actions upon talking



over as Chairwoman was to terminate the Tribe's longtime relationship with a gaming investor who had not been putting the Tribe's interests first. Today, the Tribe has no gaming investor.

Over the course of the last several months, Charlene has come to the conclusion that, in order for her to achieve justice for her people, she has to enter the arena of federal politics. Deciding to challenge an entrenched 30-year incumbent was not an easy decision.

When the Tribe's elders called upon her to lead them, she committed to doing everything that must be done to right the mistakes that have decimated her people.

Charlene never imagined running for Congress. She would prefer members of Congress who serve their constituents over the special interests that bankroll their partisan politics. If Zoe Lofgren walked her talk, Charlene wouldn't have to run – and the Muwekma Ohlone people wouldn't have to struggle merely to be seen.

But make no mistake – Charlene is motivated to make change for everyone.

Charlene is committed to addressing the issues that are most important to California's hard working families: the outrageous cost of housing in the Bay Area; a tragic homelessness and mental health crisis that is playing out on our streets; schools that are not providing students the rigor and vocational training that they need; and an economy that performs vastly better for the elite than it does for neighbors on the block.

Charlene will ask to serve on several Committees in



the House of Representatives, where she will engage in bipartisan problem solving straight away.

Housing

Charlene will introduce bold legislation that reforms and reinvigorates federal housing policy so that we can build more homes, more quickly, and more affordably. She is committed to making structural reforms to our national housing market so that it is easier for the market to create new supplies of housing in environmentally sensible ways. We can construct new homes without additional suburban sprawl, but it will take a collaborative new policy posture that enables urban municipalities to build the vibrant and densely populated neighborhoods that will animate our future. By pairing municipal zoning law changes that enable a greater density of development with federal funds for infrastructure, we can create a decades long construction boom that rebuilds our nation's cities.

Agriculture Committee

Charlene will demand that any future reauthorizations of the Farm Bill provide for farm worker housing. By offering farm owners a new tax credit intended to fund the purchase of prefabricated housing, we can address housing needs in our rural communities.

Science and Technology

Charlene will introduce new legislation that reigns

in Big Tech and holds the industry accountable for the mental health impacts that it has had on our children. Charlene will require tech companies to secure approvals from the FDA prior to being authorized to market their products to minors. She will also require the tech companies to deploy artificial intelligence to prevent human trafficking on their platforms.

Transportation

Charlene is going to fight for federal funding to extend CalTrain beyond Gilroy, all the way to Hollister, Watsonville, Santa Cruz, Salinas, and King City. By extending the commuter train service, we can link these communities to employment opportunities in San Jose and Silicon Valley that will strengthen their economies.

Energy and Commerce

Charlene will fight to open up more than one million acres of federal lands in Southern California to



accommodate solar panel installations. The Mojavi Desert can make California a clean energy exporter. Charlene is going to push for a national energy grid that enables California to export this clean, reliable, and abundant electricity across North America.

Natural Resources

Pinnacles National Park in San Benito County has the potential to serve as an extraordinary eco-tourism destination, creating new economic opportunities in communities nearby. Charlene will fight for federal earmarks that cultivate the

National Park into one of the nation's top destinations for families and adventurers. New welcome centers, trail networks, camp grounds, and wildlife preserves can be funded through congressional appropriations.

Charlene is ready to get to work fighting for you. Together, we can usher in the change, the bipartisanship, and the problem solving that the incumbents have too long deferred and delayed. It's beyond time for dynamic new leaders to fix these entrenched, stubborn problems.



**It's time to pass the torch
to the next generation.**



**Imagine what she will get done in
office, working for you.**

PAID FOR BY CHARLENE FOR CONGRESS 2024

